

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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MINUTES BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION MEETING March 2 and 3, 2004 Sacramento, California

BOARD OF FORESTRY MEMBERS PRESENT:

Stan Dixon, Chairman
Mark Bosetti
Susan Britting
Robert Heald
Tharon O'Dell
Gary Ryneerson

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:

Kirk Marckwald, Vice Chair
David Nawi

BOARD STAFF PRESENT:

George Gentry, Executive Officer
and Executive Officer, Foresters Licensing
Chris Zimny, Regulations Coordinator
Mark Hite, Committee Staff

BOARD STAFF ABSENT

Donna Stadler, Executive Assistant

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF PRESENT:

Andrea Tuttle, Director
Bill Snyder, Deputy Director
Resource Management

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dixon called the March 2004 meeting to order.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Dixon commented that there was nothing reportable from the Executive Session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Dixon commented that the minutes from the December and February meetings would be presented to the Board for approval at the April meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Nothing to report.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Dixon reported on the Scoping Session held in Fort Bragg. It was a facilitated meeting, which included the JDSF public hearing and field trip. The meeting was successful and the Board wants to move on the process quickly. March 12, 2004, there will be another Scoping Session in the Resources Auditorium.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Ray Snodgrass, Chief Deputy Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), provided the report for the Board. He referred to the Director's report in the Board's binder and reported on additional items.

Chief Snodgrass reported on the February 25, 2004, lawsuit relative to the SRA fee. He commented that there would be more to follow on this issue.

Chief Snodgrass commented on the February 13, 2004, notice on the closure of the Mount Bullion in Mariposa County and the Los Robles camp in San Luis Obispo County. CDF is working on alternatives, including any and all options open to continue CDF's ability to continue its mission.

Chief Snodgrass indicated that San Diego was still in an preparedness level for fire hazard with equipment in place.

REPORT OF FEDERAL AGENCIES INCLUDING USDA FOREST SERVICE, NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE AND US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Mr. Joe Blum, NOAA Fisheries, commented on the recent ruling that voided the stay on the Oregon Coho listing. He provided background for the Members. At this time, Oregon Coho are not listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act. All 26 ESUS listings under the Endangered Species Act on the west coast will be reviewed. Eight of those ESUS will be placed in the Federal Register later this month with proposed listing.

Mr. Mike Chapel, USFS, introduced Tom Efird, the leader of the Forest Service implementation team for the Sierra Nevada effort. He also provided a handout for the Board to follow.

Mr. Tom Efird, Implementation Team Leader of the Sierra Nevada Framework, provided a presentation regarding the January 21, 2004, decision by Regional Forester Blackwell on the Framework implementation strategy and funding for Region Five. He reviewed the handout for the Board.

There was some discussion.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED RULEMAKING OF NAPA COUNTY RULES 2003

Chairman Dixon introduced the topic and reviewed the procedure the Board would follow.

Mr. Chris Zimny, Regulations Coordinator, provided an overview of the topic.

Ms. Diane Dillon, Napa County Supervisor, addressed the Counties necessity, costs, and fire protection issues. She noted that 70 percent of the drinking water is within the DWSW described in the rule. The goal is to protect the fragile resources within these watersheds that are unique to Napa County. The County is dependent on

tourism. She commented that timber harvesting is an agricultural activity and there should be consistency among agricultural and forestry activities.

Mr. Steve Dawes, Consultant to Napa County, reviewed the cost table for the Members. The County believes that the cost issues are not expenses relative to the cost of public values and that cost saving will result in cost savings in the longer term. Information regarding cost will be made available through a database system and available to any applicant who chooses to use it.

Ms. Kate Dargan, Napa County Fire Marshall, reviewed her background for the Board. These rules do not significantly increase fire danger. Landowners are informed on how land-uses activities occur. The Napa County fire plan incorporates fire hazard reduction components.

Supervisor Dillon introduced those available to answer technical questions for the Board.

Chairman Dixon indicated that following the public comment period there could be questions that the Board may want answered.

Mr. Bill Snyder, Deputy Director for Resource Management, referred to the March 1, 2004, letter from the Department, which outlines two basic issues; the proposed regulations themselves, and the necessity of the rules. He reviewed them for the Members.

Public comment

Mr. Charles Greenlaw commented that this rulemaking process seems to be tying up a very small timber interest by the interests of the County.

Mr. Charles Smith spoke in opposition of the rules. He believes that the results will have unintended consequences. The Napa County officials have failed to describe necessity in terms of unique situations, or problems. The Citizens of Napa rejected special ordinances, therefore, the County is not pursuing the citizen's will.

Mr. Keith Greenwood, California Licensed Forestry Association (CLFA), referred to the CLFA written comments and summarized them for the Members. He wanted the record to show that the Napa County Board of Supervisors proclaimed its sincere desire to keep its exiting forestland as such. The County indicated that the necessity for developing these proposed rules was based on an upcoming ballot initiative threat; concern regarding conversion to vineyards, and domestic water protection. He asked for the Board to reach its decision in the context of the adequacy of the package to promote forestland. He does not believe that the proposed rules promote helping decrease fire risks and does believe that existing rules are adequate.

Ms. Denise Levin referred to a packet that included the market and non-market assessment of fire risks. she urged the Board to read that information; it is new science coming out of Washington State looking at these same issues. She believes that the existing rules are clear and do not complicate county rules and general FPRs.

Mr. Paul Devlin referred to a 1990 letter from Solano County regarding water rights. He wanted to know if Napa County checked with Solano County on that issue to see if they have an interest in the management practices that are being handed over to Napa County through these proposed rules. He commented that no information is required in the package on what is allowed for the average person who lives in nature and wants to be good stewards.

Mr. Ed Ehlers, Associated California Loggers (ACL), commented that ACL speaks in opposition to this rule package. There is already a declining timber business in Napa County in terms of volume as well as value. ACL recommends not adopting this proposed rule package.

Mr. George Bachich, president of the Napa Valley Land Stewart's Alliance, expressed the Alliance's concern that the proposed rules would impose obstacles in term of cost. He commented that trucks do not present a unique problem, and reported that there have been no incidents to date.

Mr. Frank Markovich commented that he dislikes the restrictions on removal of dead trees.

Mr. George Henke provided a document for the Board to review. He does not believe that the Counties premise is true related to timber conversion causing problems. He referred to the elections held in Napa County regarding the Watershed Forest Act was defeated by 72 percent. He asked that the Board re-review table 2, which was in the original document submitted to the Board.

Mr. Ken Mantree commented that the political will of people is against these rules. There is no need to modify existing rules; they are sufficient. California needs the advise of RPFs and the Board of Forestry regarding environmental practices. He believes that SB 810 has taking away reasonable professional judgment from the Board Members.

Mr. Dan Weldon, Forest Landowners of California (FLOC), commented that FLOC representing the family forest landowners opposes this rule package. The necessity is not shown; small landowners would bear increased costs. He referred to a San Cruz lawsuit of striking local rules relative to state rules.

Mr. Mark Rentz, California Forestry Association (CFA), commented that the County residents have spoken against the County proposed rules. The County did do a good job of providing a field trip and a lot of good questions were raised on that field trip, but not all have been answered. They were; how are they treating other land-uses prepared to the way the rules proposed for the forestry land-uses; and how significant of contribution do forestry applications in Napa County provide to sediment or water quality impacts. CFA also asked for some kind of analysis and have not seen one. He encouraged the Board to take into account the type of landowner that is before you making comments. CFA believes that these rules contribute to the chipping away of the log output and reduction of the infrastructure.

Ms. Jody Frediani, Citizens for Responsible Forest Management, Santa Cruz County, commented that there are many of same rules in Santa Cruz County and they are working. There is significant concern over water quality issues in California, and she believes that these rules are appropriate for that protection. She urged the Board to approve the proposed rules.

Mr. Rynearson wanted to know if by closing the public hearing it would preclude the Board from asking questions of the public.

Mr. Bruce Reeves, Deputy Attorney General and Counsel for the Board, commented that it would.

Chairman Dixon announced that the public hearing would remain open for possible questions by the Board. He noted that there was one more public member wishing to speak to the Board on this issue.

Mr. Stewart Funk commented that he believes that the costs are extremely low. He urged the Board to look at the conservation regulations, which already control everything the Board is trying to do.

Mr. Heald commented that there are elements in the Department's presentation that require clarification, and also there is a change in intention and beliefs relative to Napa County's proposal. He suggested that the Board direct the its staff get together with the County representatives and representatives from the Department to meld recommendations from CDF and have the County consider other input and come up with a 15-Day Notice that could be considered at the next meeting.

Chairman Dixon believed that would make sense, especially since there are two Board Members missing from this meeting.

Mr. Lowe from the County indicated that that would be agreeable to the County.

Chairman Dixon commented that the Board would have to close the public hearing on this 45-Day Notice and then if the Board decided to defer to discussion between, the applicant, the Department, the Regulations Coordinator,

and others that would constitute a 15-Day Notice that would set this item for a public hearing at a further date, probably April. Counsel indicated that that was correct.

Mr. Rynearson referred to page 4, line 18 of the proposed rule package. Wanted to know if it is the Counties intention that it is applied to conversion also.

Mr. Steve Dawes, Napa County, commented that it is the intention to have it apply only to THPs. He indicated that the County would look at that issue.

Mr. Rynearson referred to page 5, line 1, the retention standards; he wanted to know if those reentry periods apply to conversions; he noted specifically line 11.

Mr. Dawes indicated that the intention is straight THPs.

Mr. Rynearson suggested clarification on the limit fuel hazard reduction language. He then referred to page 11, lines 2 and 3. He wanted to know if this was to apply only to conversion or was it meant to apply to THPs as well.

Mr. Dawes commented that he would check on their original language and what the intent was to be sure that it is consistent.

Ms. Britting wanted to know the size of the acreage in the County.

Supervisor Dillon commented that she believed it was around 519,000 acres.

Ms. Britting wanted to know what percentage of the County that was in timberland.

Supervisor Dillon indicated that is was about 20,000 acres of forestland in the County.

Mr. Rynearson wanted to know if the approximately 20,000 acres was in forestland or timberland as defined.

Mr. Will Selick of Napa County indicated that that was correct. Based on the latest vegetation mappings, which were completed a couple of years ago, there is about 22,000 acres of forestlands in Napa County.

Mr. Rynearson wanted know how the County defined forestlands.

Mr. Selick indicated those were conifer forests.

Mr. Rynearson wanted to know if there was an analysis of the typical timberland landowner.

Mr. Selick indicated that the County did not have that information.

Mr. Rynearson wanted to know about the economic impact to small landowners. He wanted to know if this result in taking land out of productive timber uses.

Mr. Selick commented that such an analysis has not been done.

Mr. Mark Bosetti wanted to know if those county map products were readily available.

Mr. Someone indicated that some of those maps have been provided. He commented that portions are available on web sites and maps are now available.

Mr. Bosetti wanted to know if the County has information that differs from the Department's regarding THP filings and acres from 1983 to the present.

04-3-1 Mr. Rynearson moved that the public hearing be closed. Mr. Heald seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

04-3-2 Mr. Heald moved that the Board direct staff to work with Napa County and incorporate in a 15-Day Notice with any changes with reference to the Department's concerns and any other issues that the County believes that should be incorporated in a new notice for this rule section. Ms. Britting seconded the motion.

Mr. Rynearson commented on the concerns regarding costs voice by both sides of this issue. He would like that revisited within the Initial Statement of Reasons.

Mr. Heald commented that he believed that staff would look at that issue.

Mr. Rynearson commented that he would like the clarification issues also considered in the discussions.

Mr. Heald concurred with that and indicated that the last minute information that was late in coming would also be addressed.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Dixon commented that the actions taken here do not imply support nor opposition to the package; it is only an administrative process.

PRESENTATION OF CALIFORNIA FOREST PEST COUNCIL'S 2003 ANNUAL REPORT ON PEST CONDITIONS IN CALIFORNIA

Mr. Scott Johnson, Chairman of the CFPC, announced that this would be the monthly report of the Forest Pest Council. The Council had its for Executive Board meeting in February and has begun processing its field tour schedule for the Insect Disease and Southern California and Weed Committees. The Annual meeting will be in November. It will be the Tuesday and Wednesday before Veteran's Day.

Mr. Johnson commented that Don Owen, a member of the CFPC, would be providing a visual of the Forest Pest Conditions Report for California. He provided some background information on Dr. Owen. He commented that the hard copy of the publication would be provided at a later date.

Dr. Don Owen, Pest Specialist for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, commented that a press release would be coming out today reporting that Pitch Canker has been spotted in the Sierra Nevada and in El Dorado County. He provided a copy of the Pitch Canker Task Force Resolution in response to the discovery and reviewed it for the Board.

Dr. Owen reviewed the pests listed in the California Forest Pest Conditions Report. He then provided a Power Point presentation for the Board.

Ms. Johnson explained that the Forest Pest Council had been organized into a number of interest committees; Insect; Disease; Weeds; Animal Damage; Air Pollution Damage; and an Editorial Committee. There are two special task forces; Pitch Canker Task Force, and the California Oak Mortality Task Force.

REPORT OF THE OAK MORTALITY TASK FORCE (COMTF)

Ms. Katy Palmieri, Information Officer for the COMTF, presented her written report and reviewed it for the Members. A copy of this report is available at: <http://suddenoakdeath.org>

UPDATE OF DFG COHO RECOVERY STRATEGY AND IMPLICATIONS TO BOF REGULATIONS

Chairman Dixon introduced the topic.

Mr. Mark Stopher, Department of Fish and Game (DFG), provided an update on the status of the Coho recovery planning and listing process for the Board. He noted that last month the Coho Salmon recovery strategy was approved by the Fish and Game Commission. There were over 750 recommendations. At the Commission's request, DFG prepared three alternatives for them to consider related to timber management. He reviewed the acceptable alternative "c" for the Board. He indicated that he would provide copies of that alternative for the Members. DFG is to use these as policy direction for the development of guidelines not yet been developed. The Commission directed DFG staff to issue a notice of intent to add Coho salmon to the list of threatened and endangered species in California. That notice has been published.

Chairman Dixon commented that it would be useful for the Board and Commission staffs to develop a preliminary policy for discussion, since the Board and Commission will hold their Joint meeting in May.

Mr. Stopher indicated that he would try to provide some clarity on some of these issues.

Mr. Richard Gienger commented on alternative "c" of the Coho recovery strategy. He recommended that CDF and the Board work with DFG and other interested agencies and stakeholders to establish procedures for THPs and to document and evaluate implementation effectiveness of Coho related mitigation measures prior to the official completion inspection by CDF and other agencies.

Chairman Dixon reiterated that Board staff and the Fish and Game Commission staff should develop a draft so that it could go to the Board and Commission members prior to the Joint meeting in May.

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DEIR) AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR JACKSON DEMONSTRATION STATE FOREST (JDSF) AND REPORT OF THE BOARD'S REPRESENTATIVES ON RESULTS OF FACILITATED SCOPING SESSION

Chairman Dixon introduced the topic and asked that the Executive Officer for the Board provide an overview of the facilitated scoping session, which took place in Fort Bragg.

Mr. George Gentry, Executive Officer for the Board, commended the facilitators and the Board's Regulations Coordinator who proved himself capable of not only setting up the meeting, but cleaning up afterwards to insure that the deposit was returned. Also, commended the JDSF staff and CDF for their assistance in the logistics and the field trip. The meeting went well. There was a wide variety of input and the meeting was conducive to the subject and an excellent first step in the process. He noted that Friday, March 12, 2004, would be the next scoping session, in Sacramento, in the Resources Auditorium, for public comment. The end of the scoping period would be the following week.

REPORT OF SENSITIVE WATERSHED NOMINATIONS REVIEW, FOREST PRACTICE, POLICY AND MANAGEMENT, AD HOC ROADS AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT, AND RESOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEES INCORPORATION OF BOARD TASKS AND GOALS IN 2004, INTO FIRE AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM POLICY STATEMENT PER PRC 4789

SENSITIVE WATERSHED NOMINATIONS REVIEW

Mr. Tharon O'Dell commented that he met with the Executive Officer to put together a list of names to contact as potential candidates to serve on the committee for evaluation. A staff person will be available for administrative functions and FRAP will be providing some maps of ownership and how the basin lays out on the landscape for the organizational meeting. The letters that are sent out will have a short review and acceptance or rejection

response time. The first organizational meeting is tentatively scheduled for late this month. He reviewed the preferred process.

Chairman Dixon expressed his frustration that the Board has not been able to dedicate the time to this issue that is required, and believes that assistance is required of the Legislature regarding staffing challenges.

FOREST PRACTICE COMMITTEE (FPC)

Mr. Robert Heald, Chairman of the FPC, the Committee offered the transitional Silvicultural method for public comment and there was none, so he believes that it would go out to a 45-Day Notice.

Mr. Heald reported that the Committee continued its discussion of the AB 47 implementation, which is the rule modification for maps of past and future projects for ownership in a watershed area. The Committee encouraged all interested parties wishing to participate with the Department in an *Ad Hoc* group reviewing standards for maps do so.

Mr. Heald reported that the Committee had a discussion regarding the hazardous Fuel reduction on the Forest Health Regulatory Relief issue with a Power Point presentation and the discussion following was regarding the science basis for linking fuels to fire hazard and risks. It was a very good presentation. This item is set for continued discussion leaving the scoping phase and going into real alternatives.

Mr. Heald commented that the Committee briefly discussed the watercourse reclassification issue that has been sent to committee. The Department of Fish and Game reported on the status of this issue. There is scheduled some time during the next meeting and there will be another FRAWG report and the Class II issue will be discussed.

Mr. Heald commented that the Committee began discussion on the old growth Heritage Tree Petition. There is a lot of concern over this issue. The Committee was charged the task of defining definitions, looking for options for disclosure, and options for minimizing impacts to others.

POLICY AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (PMC)

There was no meeting.

AD HOC ROADS AND WATERSHED COMMITTEE

Mr. Ryneanson, Chairman of the *Ad Hoc* Committee, reported that the Committee had an update on the waiver and other policies from two of the Water Quality Regional Boards. The North Coast Board is currently planning to do a categorical waiver for federal lands, which will be heard on March 24, 2004, at the Regional Board. On March 23, 2004, there will be a workshop in Santa Rosa on a general waste discharge requirement for large and small private landowners. There was some discussion that one of the waivers might be based on the draft SNTMP that seems to be working. There was a report from the Central Valley Region indicated that their new forms are now on the Web and that the final will be next week. The Lahontan region had few changes and that program is up and working. On March 18, 2004, there will be a decision before the State Water Quality Control Board to review the North Coast waiver. There was a presentation from the Department of Fish and Game on the 1600 policy regarding the process. DFG is developing a publication that should be available at the next *Ad Hoc* Committee meeting. Redding has been doing a trial run on implementing the 1600 process through the THP, which is now the 1611 process. Most of the other regions will be doing that soon. CDF and DFG are working together to modify the THP process. The Committee had a discussion on the inter-agency roads and various definitions of roads. There was a general discussion of the Roads Rule package and it was decided to leave that package where it is and have discussion before full committee as necessary. A new draft of the Roads Management Plan was handed out, which now is a stand along CEQA compliance document that would be separately approved from the THP process. Next meeting the first item for discussion will be the Modified Road Management Plan.

RESOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING (RPC)

Mr. Mark Bosetti, Chair of the RPC, commented that the Committee discussed the status of its review of the Fire Plan. CDF is working on putting together a working group prior to next month's meeting to begin this process.

Mr. Bosetti indicated that the monthly Region reports were provided to the Committee and are available in the Board's binder.

Mr. Bosetti commented that the Committee received an update on the camp closures from the Department. There was an update on the Blue Ribbon Committee and its final meeting will be March 18, 2004, with the final report due on April 5, 2004. A copy of that report will be made available to the Board as soon as it is ready for public distribution. The Committee requested that the Board receive a presentation of the findings of that group and its recommendations.

Mr. Bosetti commented that FRAP provided an update on the SRA fee program. He noted that a lawsuit had been filed regarding that legislation. The Department is going ahead as though there is going to be implementation of that fee in the timeframe described in the original legislation. He believes that there are aspects of the SRA classifications and regulations that the Board will have to deal with. The Committee will receive at its next meeting some proposed wording changes relative to those sections that the Department believes that there is need for clarification.

Mr. Bosetti reported that the California Forestry Association provided a nomination for the RMAC position that was vacated by Len Lindstrand; the recommendation for an appointment to that position will come to the Board next month.

Chairman Dixon commented that the two Senate bills relative to the SRA legislation are in the binder under the RPC tab.

Chairman Dixon announced that the discussion of the last item under tab 15, Incorporation of Board Tasks and Goals in 2004, into Fire and Resource Assessment Program Policy Statement per PRC 4789, would be postponed until next meeting.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Chairman Dixon announced that this item would be discussed next month.

REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEES

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RMAC)

Mr. George Gentry, Executive Officer for the Board, commented that RMAC has not met. However, RMAC is researching and developing a working group to deal with the oak woodlands issue and there has been some meetings set up. There is one scheduled RMAC meeting for the middle June; RMAC intends to provide a preliminary report to the Board at its June meeting, and based on that input, RMAC will finalize the report and present it to the Board.

MONITORING STUDY GROUP (MSG)

Mr. Pete Cafferata, Resource Management and MSG staff, reported that the MSG had not met since the Board's last meeting. He provided a written summary of some of the MSG projects and reviewed it for the Board. It included the Cooperative Instream Monitoring Projects Update, the Modified Completion Report Monitoring, the next MSG meeting agenda, and the Monitoring-Related Report. A copy of this summary is available at www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board.

PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS EXAMINING COMMITTEE (PFEC)

Mr. George Gentry, Executive Officer for the PFEC, noted the passing of Larry Mason, an RPF and one of the Board's first recipients of the Golden Trowel Award; also, Kermit Cuff, RPF 175; and Joseph Dorman, RPF 2468.

Mr. Gentry reported that five foresters have requested reinstatement of their licenses. John Woolsey, RPF 2495; Larry Henry, RPF 2371; Martin Rau, RPF 2005; Dearl McCullough, RPF 735; and Thomas Kenyon, RPF 1885.

04-3-3 Mr. Rynearson moved to approve the reinstatements of the individual listed above. Mr. O'Dell seconded the motion, and all are in favor.

Mr. Gentry commented that the PFEC met on February 19, 2004, to approve the April 16, 2004, exam. That exam will be held in the follow locations: Eureka, Redding, Sacramento, and Riverside. Mr. Gentry requested that the PFEC work on prioritizing issues that it is faced with, so that if a new Executive Officer for Licensing is hired, a prioritized list could be given to that individual.

Mr. Gentry reported that the curricula for the Forestry program at UC Berkeley were rejected. There was some discussion about how the PFEC could do more contact with the Universities at Cal-Poly and Humboldt State for that their curricula meets the needs of foresters currently.

Mr. Heald commented that the proposed Forestry and Resource Management major revisions at UC Berkeley were not adopted by the panel and will be taken up again in a couple of weeks.

PUBLIC FORUM: Members of the public may address the Board on any topic within its jurisdiction not otherwise on the agenda. Submittal of written comments is encouraged to ensure that all comments will be included in the record before the Board. Please be prepared to summarize comments to three minutes in length, or otherwise at the discretion of the chairman.

Mr. Richard Gienger commented on the Coho Recovery Strategy. He reported that the Buckeye Forest Project is putting together an NTMP workshop in April. There will be a field trip going out on a real NTMP. The intent is to get people from a broader perspective from Legislative staff, environmental groups, landowners, and reviewers in an effort to spread the understanding and knowledge of NTMPs. AB 2762 provides a process for a new and bigger NTMP that would not interfere with the current NTMP language. He commented on the news that Water Quality was considering an option to comply with the Stewardship NTMP and encouraged those involved to support that process. He expressed his appreciation to those who worked on the 100-Year Watercourse Crossing Workbook, and he hoped that the MSG would conduct a field trip to look at watercourse crossings soon.

REPORT OF THE REGULATIONS COORDINATOR

Mr. Chris Zimny, Regulations Coordinator, reported that he was working with Executive Officer on the best date to meet the OAL requirements and the convenience requirement for the hearing on the Napa Rule Amendment. He indicated that staff would work with the Department to finalize that rule. He commented that OAL requires a calendar of expected rules for the year and reviewed those for the Members. Transition Silvicultural 2004, SRA reclassification, Fuel Hazard, AB 47, FRAWG, RMP, Napa Rules 2004, and Fire Prevention Standards.

Note: The Board's Regulations Coordinator will report on ongoing regulatory matters. The Board may act in response to requests of the Regulations Coordinator on items presented in the report. Report will include status of actions taken to comply with Executive Order S-2-03; content and status of Napa County Rules.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mr. George Gentry, Executive Officer to the Board, provided an update on the May Joint Meeting with the Fish and Game Commission. He commented on minutes being behind due to health issues of the Executive Assistance and discussed the possibility of doing an abbreviated version of future minutes with the Board.

Mr. Bruce Reeves, Deputy Attorney General and Counsel for the Board, commented that an abbreviated version with tapes as backup was consonant with Bagley-Keene.

Mr. Gentry referred to the Board's packet and reviewed the Legislation for the Members. There was some discussion, and the Executive Officer indicated that he would do additional research and keep the Board informed.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Ryneanson reported that the Humboldt State University Department of Forestry and Watershed Management recently underwent a review by the Society of American Foresters for the accreditation of its program. That program has been re-accredited for a period of 10 years by the Society.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Dixon adjourned the March 2004 meeting of the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

George D. Gentry
Executive Officer

Stan Dixon
Chairman

Copies of the attendance sheets can be obtained from the Board Office.

Note: The Board may take any non-hearing agenda item out of order as time permits and may discuss agenda items scheduled for committees, including legislation. The Board may act on recommendations by its committees on items listed in their respective agendas.

ADA Notice- Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals who, because of a disability, need special assistance to attend or participate in a State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Meeting, may request assistance at the Board Office, 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1506-14, Sacramento, California or by calling (916) 653-8007. Requests should be made one week in advance whenever possible.